



---

# San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

---

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 4, 2009**

Contact: Gina Coburn, Communications Director: (619) 533-6181

### ***LOBSTER POACHER SENTENCED TO JAIL***

*Defendant caught repeatedly fishing at the La Jolla Marine Preserve sentenced to 90 days*

**San Diego, CA:** Binh Chau pleaded guilty yesterday to charges stemming from poaching lobsters from the La Jolla Underwater Park, a protected state marine conservation area. It was the third time in the past year and a half Chau has been convicted for lobster poaching at the same location.

As part of his sentence, Chau was ordered to serve 90 days in custody for violating probation in his previous case. Chau was placed on three years probation, and is banned from fishing within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of San Diego.

Chau's latest arrest was March 17, 2009. A California Fish and Game Warden was on patrol around midnight at the preserve when he observed Chau fishing for lobsters with a handline. When arrested Chau was in possession of a bag containing four lobsters, three of which were undersized.

The La Jolla Underwater Park extending from La Jolla Cove to Scripps Pier, is a state protected conservation area where it is unlawful to fish or take any marine resource. Poaching, which is the illegal taking of fish and wildlife, severely impacts wildlife resources by depleting numbers and threatening species survival.

To report a poacher, citizens are asked to call the California Fish and Game Toll-Free Hotline at: 888-334-2258.

###